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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, July 21, 2003)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

For the beauty of the Earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which, from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to You we raise this, our prayer of grateful praise.

We thank You for Your loving providence that sustains us each day. Thank You, also, for the liberty that provides the foundation for our Nation.

Bless our Senators today. May they remember to trust You for guidance and to believe that You will order their steps. Make their lives a source of wisdom, deep as the ocean and fresh as a flowing stream.

We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of S. 14, the Energy bill. It is our intention this morning to reach an agreement to allow for the disposition of the two pending CAFE amendments.

In addition, the Senate will conduct its third cloture vote on the Owen nomination at 12:15 today. Therefore, Senators should expect the possibility of several votes prior to the party lunches. Members will be notified when the first vote is scheduled.

The Senate will recess, following the cloture vote, until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party lunches, and for the remainder of the day the Senate will resume debate on the Energy bill. The Senate may also resume debate on the Chile and Singapore free-trade agreements. This morning we would like to lock in the agreement for the consideration of those two bills. Therefore, Senators should expect votes throughout the afternoon and into the evening.

THE ENERGY BILL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to very briefly comment on the Energy bill. I did not make a statement on the bill and indeed was a bit disappointed on the progress we made yesterday for lots of extenuating circumstances. I do want to point out my absolute commitment to aggressively addressing the bill this morning and over the course of this week. Today, we do begin our 16th day, our 16th day of consideration on this Energy bill on the Senate floor. Just to point out to my colleagues, 16 days is longer than we spent on any other single bill this year. In fact, it is twice as long as we spent on the Medicare reform bill, the Medicare prescription drug bill. I say that only to encourage my colleagues to come to the floor, offer amendments, allow us to offer the amendments so that we can debate and vote on the amendments that people are at least considering.

Time and time again the statement is made that we spent 7 weeks on this bill last year on the Senate floor. Seven weeks, that was 24 days that we spent last year, and last year the bill

didn't go through committee. It was not marked up. It wasn't debated in committee. It was taken straight to the floor.

Now we have a bill that was marked up, debated in committee, and now we spend 16 days on it. We need to finish this bill this week. We need to stay focused with it and we can't tolerate the sort of delays we have seen to date. We need to aggressively recognize that we have a period of this week and use the time that is available.

The issue of organizing how we do these amendments and sort of getting them done procedurally is what I have been concentrating on, but I think all of us have to step back and recognize the substance of this bill is what is important. It is incumbent upon us as U.S. Senators to address an issue that has been put forth by the President.

An Energy bill has been passed by the House of Representatives, and we have a bill on the Senate floor that we are debating and we must address and finish and complete this week.

A strong energy policy is what Americans want. It is what Americans deserve, a policy that, indeed, balances new production with conservation, with the development of renewable resources, all of which is crucial to strengthening our economy and our national security.

In terms of the economy, we know this bill will have a direct impact on the creation of jobs—not just 100,000 jobs or 300,000 or 400,000 but 500,000 jobs it is predicted this bill will create.

We know what has happened with natural gas prices. We have seen what has happened with those prices just since we have been discussing this bill. Again, it calls upon us to pass this Energy bill which sets out our policy.

While we have addressed issues, not as aggressively as I would like, gas prices have shot up. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has made

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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